



GDOT Statewide Truck Lanes Needs Identification Study Newsletter



December 2006

Study Update

We've been busy since our last round of advisory committee and task force meetings were held in the summer and fall. Our next round of meetings will take place early next year. This update highlights some of the results of our data collection efforts including origin-destination surveys, warehouse surveys, and crash analyses. Also included are some of the issues and opportunities that were identified by the study advisory committees and where we are headed with the next steps.

Origin-Destination Surveys

In order to obtain detailed information about commodities and travel routes, the study team conducted origin-destination (O-D) surveys at weigh stations, truck stops, intermodal facilities, and at the ports. Close to 5,600 surveys were completed. In coordination with the Georgia Department of Public Safety - Motor Carrier Compliance Division, truck drivers were asked to respond to a short survey asking such questions as: Where did you start this trip? How often do you travel to/through Georgia for this type of trip? Which roadway(s) did you take? Results indicate that 36% of the truck traffic is through traffic, with neither an origin or destination in Georgia. Maps that show the truck drivers' travel patterns across Georgia are available on the project's website at www.gatrucklanestudy.com.

Warehouse Survey

Warehouse survey data that was collected confirmed that warehouses at the Port of Savannah operate as intermediate freight destinations between the port and other locations in the U.S. and also as distribution centers for goods that are consumed in the Southeast. These surveys helped us determine the percentage of truck traffic at the port. The overall findings of the warehouse survey concluded that most of the warehouses serve a national distribution function, rather than local.



O-D Surveys collected at Georgia weigh stations, Summer 2006

Crash Analysis Findings

For controlled-access state-administered roads:

- The total crash rate involving trucks was 14%.
- The injury crash rate involving trucks was 16%.
- Major findings of the crash analysis revealed that accidents involving trucks are more likely to include fatalities.



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What we've heard so far from our Task Force...

Issues and Opportunities

"What are the most significant issues impacting truck travel in Georgia?"

- Major Themes
 - Safety
 - Reliability
 - Congestion and bottlenecks
 - Industry pressures
 - Truck friendly corridors

"What factors should be considered in determining whether truck only lanes should be built?"

- Making the system safer
- Reducing congestion
- Recognize financial realities
- Serving the trucking community effectively

"What truck lane policy concerns should be identified?"

- Where would the lanes be physically located?
- Who is eligible?
- Would the lanes be voluntary or mandatory?
- Who would bear the cost of construction?
- What would be the speed limit?
- Would "doubles" be allowed?
- Would truck lanes be on new or existing alignment?

"What additional issues should be considered when developing a truck only lane system?"

- Incident management
- Project design considerations
- Hours of service
- East-west connectivity
 - North of Atlanta (I-75 to I-85)
 - South of Atlanta (I-75 to I-85)
 - Columbus - Macon
- Air Quality
- Economic Development
- Transportation Information Exchange System
 - Changeable Message Signs

Where are we now?

- Data collection is complete
 - ❖ By 2035, commodities are forecasted to increase in tons by 160% to 2.45 billion tons and increase in dollars by 206% to \$4.9 trillion (2004 dollars).
- Parking analysis is complete
 - ❖ Undersupply of parking exists.
 - ❖ Potential impacts include drivers parking on ramps and shoulders.
- Travel demand model development is underway
- Policy framework initiated
- Next steps:
 - ❖ Needs assessment
 - ❖ Develop preliminary candidate recommendations



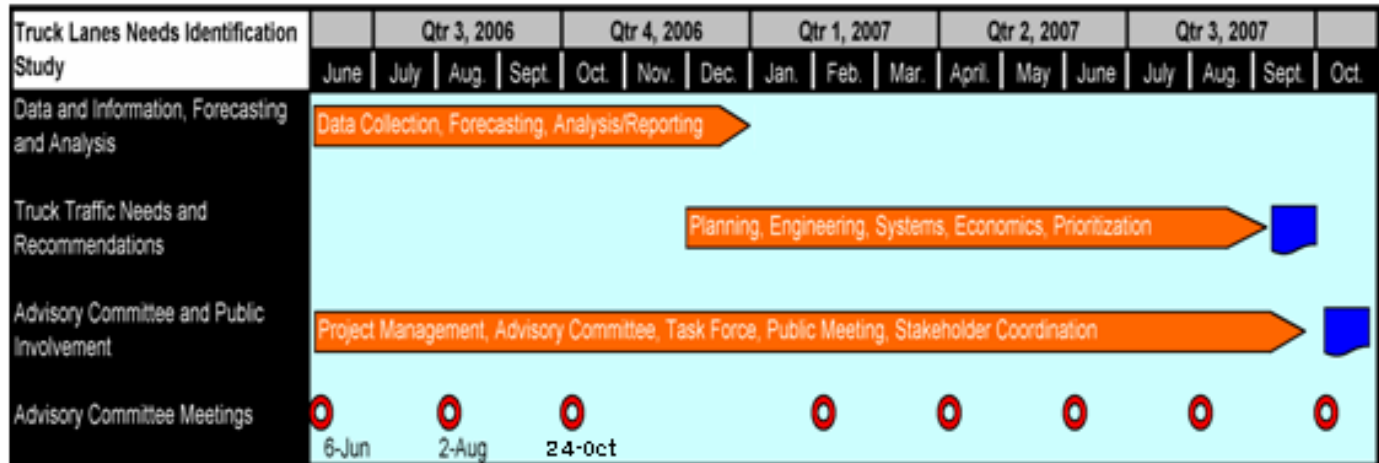


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Study Schedule

We are approaching the halfway point, but there is still much work to be done.



Next Steps

Our next round of task force meetings will be held in February 2007. We will send out an invitation letter a couple of weeks before the meeting. We look forward to your continued participation.

Project Website

Our website is updated continually with new information. All of the presentations and minutes from the meeting and map are posted. Go to www.gatrucklanestudy.com and check out the Project Media page.



Stay Informed

If you have any questions or comments, please let us know by contacting:

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